

**PUBLIC NOTICE - DSWM TENTATIVELY APPROVES VARIANCE FOR
EASTMAN'S ACETONE RECOVERY**

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) has tentatively decided to grant a solid waste classification variance for a partially recovered acetone stream generated at the Tennessee Operations of Eastman Chemical Company. This facility (EPA ID number TND003376928) is located in Sullivan County at 100 North Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN 37662. TDEC invites the public to submit comments on this proposal during a 30-day comment period, ending May 18, 2015.

This variance seeks to prevent a valuable commodity from being disposed as a hazardous waste. Tennessee Rule 0400-12-01-.01(4)(b)(3) "Variances from Classification as a Waste" provides procedures for determining that certain hazardous materials that are partially recovered and reused or further recovered prior to reuse in an industrial or commercial process will no longer be classified as wastes. In response to a request from DSWM, Eastman provided supplemental information addressing criteria for evaluation of legitimate recycling in the format referenced in the April 26, 1989 letter from Sylvia Lowrance, the Director of the Office of Solid Waste, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In the production of acetate fibers, acetone is used as the solvent in a spinning operation. The acetone vapors generated from the spinning process are collected in a scrubber. In the drying process, solvent-laden air is directed to carbon beds from which acetone is adsorbed and steamed, and the resultant vapor is condensed. Typically, the acetone concentration from these activities ranges from five to fifteen percent. These acetone/water mixtures, which may be ignitable, are collected in a closed loop system of tanks and piped to distillation columns for recovery. In accordance with Tennessee Rule 0400-12-01-.02(1)(d)1.(viii), the acetone/water mixture is not a solid waste when managed in this closed loop system.

Approximately 98 percent of the acetone used in Eastman's Acetate Fibers manufacturing process is recovered for reuse. The acetone is refined from crude acetone in distillation columns, accumulated in tanks, and recycled back to the manufacturing areas. However, a small fraction of the acetone recovered in the closed loop distillation step is purged from the system and accumulated in a tank. The variance would apply to this material, which is currently recycled under a variance issued in 2010. The variance would allow the material to be periodically pumped into a trailer or railcar. This material can then be transported to other manufacturing units on site for direct reuse or for further processing and use. Commercial sales involving the effective reuse of the partially reclaimed acetone is also proposed.

Reuse of this material serves as an effective substitute for virgin chemical and is consistent with national waste minimization goals. It also supports sustainable development and improved resource efficiency.

The public may review the Variance Request and DSWM's response at the Kingsport Public Library Reference Desk, 400 Broad Street, Kingsport, TN 37660 (423- 229-9489). These materials are also available at the TDEC Johnson City Environmental Field Office, Public Access Area, 2305 Silverdale Rd, Johnson City, TN 37601 (423-854-5400) and DSWM's Central Office, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 14th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243 (615-532-0780). Normal state office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, excluding legal holidays.

For further information or to submit written comments or request a public hearing on this proposal, contact Mr. Joe Putnam in the Regulatory Compliance Section of DSWM's Central Office (615-532-0882) by emailing Joe.Putnam@tn.gov or faxing 615-532-0938. Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. CDT, Monday, May 18, 2015 to assure consideration. After considering all comments, DSWM will make a final decision to either grant or deny the variance.

If you would like to receive notices like this directly, contact the Public Participation Officer in DSWM's Central Office for a Mailing List Request form. Call 615-532-0788 or email Solid.Waste@tn.gov.

TDEC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) employer. TDEC does not unlawfully discriminate on any basis prohibited by applicable law in any of its programs, services or activities.

EEO/AA inquiries or complaints may be directed to the EEO/AA Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, at 1-888-867-7455. ADAAA inquiries or complaints should be directed to the ADAAA Coordinator, HR Division, at 1-866-253-5827. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

NOTICE ISSUED: April 17, 2015